

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 /106 W

----- 071357

R 171332Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3421

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHSA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1168

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4853

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, PINS

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: THREE SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS KILLED

1. DEC 16 PRESS HEADLINED " ARMY KILLS 61, LOSES 3".  
OFFICIAL DEFENSE FORCE ANNOUNCEMENT GAVE NAMES OF THREE  
SERVICEMEN KILLED IN " OPERATIONAL AREA" SKIRMISH WITH " ENEMY  
WHICH SUFFERED 61 DEAD. NO DETAILS OF DATE, PLACE, OR KIND  
OF ENGAGEMENT WERE PROVIDED BY OFFICIALS, WHO DECLINED  
FURTHER COMMENT. OTHER HEADLINE " BLOODY BATTLE ROUTES MPLA"  
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DESCRIBES AT SOME LENGTH UNITA RECAPTURE OF LUSO AND

DRIVE ONWARD.

2. OBVIOUSLY WRESTLING WITH CENSORSHIP PROBLEMS, PAPERS NOTED THAT OFFICIAL STATEMENT ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP DEATHS DID NOT USE TERMS "TERRORIST" OR "SWAPO" AS WAS DONE PREVIOUSLY. EARLIER STATEMENTS BY MIN DEF BOTHA REFERRING TO "HOT PURSUIT" INVOLVING PENETRATIONS INTO ANGOLA VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS 150, 200 AND 300 KILOMETERS WERE MENTIONED, TOGETHER WITH NOTE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSMEN HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE FIGHTING DEEP INSIDE ANGOLA.

3. PRESS REPORTED WITHOUT LOCAL COMMENT SAVIMBI STATEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WERE KNOWN TO BE OPERATING ABOUT 150 KILOMETERS IN ANGOLA IN UNITA AREAS, BUT UNITA DID NOT HAVE CAPABILITY TO OPPOSE THEM.

4. FOR SEVERAL DAYS PRESS HAS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORTING OF MASSIVE US ASSISTANCE FLOWING INTO ANGOLA, AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN AT CONFIRMATION OF MONTHS-LONG PROGRAM. RESIGNATION OF ASST SECY DAVIS ATTRIBUTED TO HIS OPPOSITION TO SEC KISSINGERS ADVOCACY OF US SUPPORT FOR ANTI-MPLA GROUPS IN ANGOLA.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CASUALTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750438-0990  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** ANGOLA: THREE SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS KILLED  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, MPOL, SF, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006